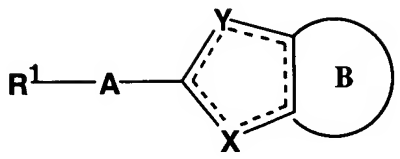
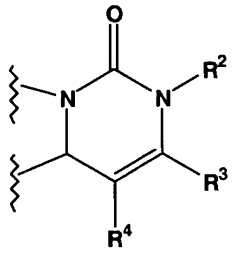
CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein A is –NR(C=O), -(C=O)NR, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, or a bond;
X is selected from –N=, -NR^9-, -O-, -S-, -CR^{10}-, >$C(R^{11})_2$,
Y is selected from –N=, -NR^9-, -O-, -S-, -CR^{10}-, >$C(R^{11})_2$;
with the proviso that when Y is O or S, X is not O or S;
dashed lines represent optional double bonds;
ring B is selected from the group consisting of:



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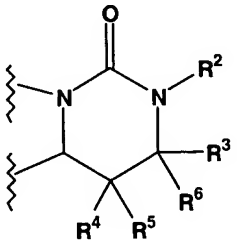

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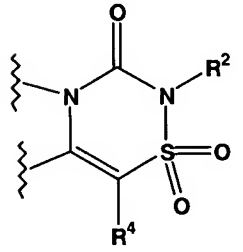


;

wherein each R, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^9, R^{10}, and R^{11} are the same or different, where ever they appear, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-

C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-; wherein each of the aforesaid group members, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, may be optionally independently substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, -CN, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy-, CF_3-, CF_3O-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1.C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl–(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, HO(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(O)(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(O)(C=O)(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(C=O)(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, -(S=O)R, -(SO_2)R, and NR^7R^8 wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

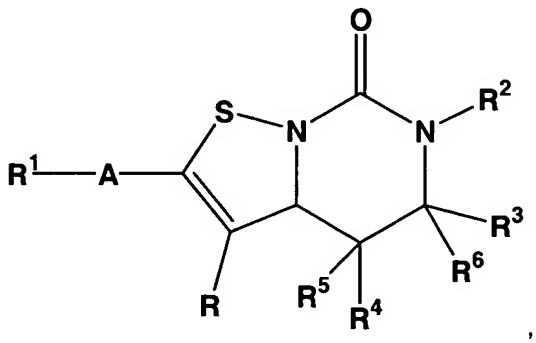
R, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^9, R^{10}, and R^{11} may further be hydrogen;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, and R^4 may be optionally substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, -CN, CF_3-, and CF_3O-;

m is an integer from 0-3; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:



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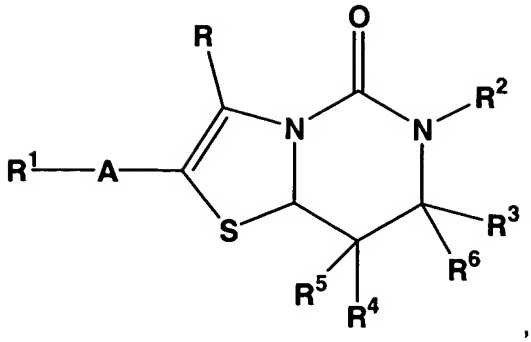

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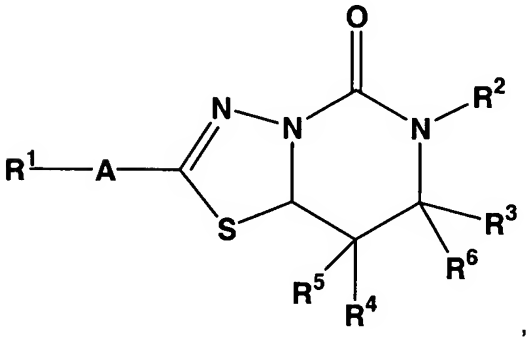

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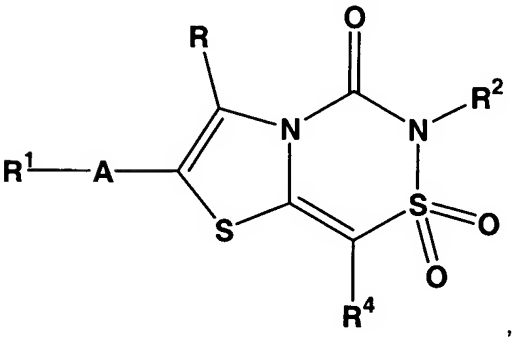

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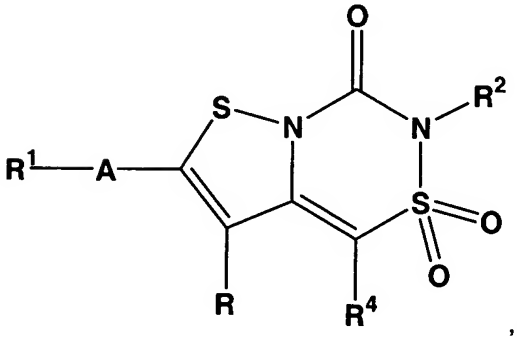

, or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3 The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^1 is independently selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

4. The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^2 is independently selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

5. The compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

6. The compound according to Claim 5, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl- and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-.

7. The compound of Claim 6, wherein R^3, R^4, R^5, and R^6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-.

8. The compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

4-[2-(4-Methoxy-benzylcarbamoyl)-7-methyl-4,6,6-trioxo-6H-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-inden-5-ylmethyl]-benzoic acid

5-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-7-methyl-4,6,6-trioxo-5,6-dihydro-4H-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-indene-2-carboxylic acid 4-methoxy-benzylamide

4-[2-(3-Methoxy-benzylcarbamoyl)-7-methyl-4,6,6-trioxo-6H-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-inden-5-ylmethyl]-benzoic acid

5-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-7-methyl-4,6,6-trioxo-5,6-dihydro-4H-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-indene-2-carboxylic acid 3-methoxy-benzylamide

4-{2-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-prop-1-ynyl]-7-methyl-4,6,6-trioxo-6H-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-inden-5-ylmethyl}-benzoic acid

5-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-2-[3-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-prop-1-ynyl]-7-methyl-6,6-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-inden-4-one

4-{2-[3-(3-Methoxy-phenyl)-prop-1-ynyl]-7-methyl-4,6,6-trioxo-6H-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-inden-5-ylmethyl}-benzoic acid

5-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-2-[3-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-prop-1-ynyl]-7-methyl-6,6-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-1,6λ^6-dithia-3a,5-diaza-inden-4-one; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of connective tissue disorders, inflammatory disorders, immunology/allergy disorders, infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, eye diseases, metabolic diseases, central nervous system (CNS) disorders, liver/kidney diseases, reproductive health disorders, gastric disorders, skin disorders and cancers in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9, wherein the compound of Claim 1 is a compound of Claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A method for treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient suffering from an arthritis disease a nontoxic antiarthritic effective amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein the arthritis is osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound administered is a compound according to Claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.